

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00102 301716Z

61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 AID-05 /042 W

----- 097359

R 300902Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MASERU 102

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, LT, SF

SUBJECT: LESOTHO MINER UNREST

REF: MASERU A-3; MASERU 35

1. PRINCIPAL MINE LABOR RECRUITING ORGANIZATION IN MASERU INFORMS US LESOTHO MINE LABOR SITUATION HAS MORE OR LESS RETURNED TO NORMAL. MINE MANAGEMENT NOW MORE ALERT TO POTENTIAL DISTURBANCES AND HAVE RETURNED TO LESOTHO HANDFUL OF SUSPECTED AGITATORS IN LAST FEW DAYS.

2. MINERS APPEAR TO HAVE EXTRACTED SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS FROM GOVERNMENT ON DEFERRED PAY PLAN. GOOD PERCENTAGE OF MINERS WAITING TO SEE THESE CONCESSIONS APPEAR IN WRITING AND BALANCE HAVE GONE BACK TO WORK.

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PAGE 02 MASERU 00102 301716Z

3. GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO REINTERPRET REGULATIONS IN

TWO INSTANCES TO MEET MINERS' MAJOR COMPLAINTS. FIRST, MINERS' PAY WILL BE DEFERRED ONLY FOR PERIOD OF CONTRACT LABOR AND NOT FOR ANY PERIOD WHEN LABOR PERFORMED WITHOUT CONTRACT. MOST MINERS NOW EXPECTED TO SIGN MINIMUM SIX-MONTH CONTRACTS AND TO CONTINUE WORKING ON MINES AFTER CONTRACTS EXPIRE. AS FIRST AND LAST MONTHS OF SUCH A CONTRACT EXEMPT FROM DEFERRED PAY THIS MEANS THAT ONLY FOUR MONTHS' DEFERRED PAY WILL BE PAID INTO LESOTHO BANK EVEN THOUGH MINER MAY BE WORKING FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE.

4. SECOND AND EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT POINT IS THAT MINERS WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE ALL OR PART OF THEIR DEFERRED PAY REMITTED TO FAMILIES. THIS CONCESSION, WHICH CLEARLY NOT PART OF GOVERNMENTS' ORIGINAL PLAN, ALLOWS MINERS TO AVOID HAVING ANY MONEY PUT INTO LESOTHO BANK AT ALL.

5. RESULT OF GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IS THAT PRINCIPLE OF COMPULSORY DEFERRED PAY STANDS BUT GOAL OF BUILDING UP DEVELOPMENT (OR WHATEVER) FUND THROUGH MINERS' MONEY HAS BEEN SHARPLY UNDERCUT. EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE IS THAT ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD TO ONE-QUARTER OF CAPITAL INTENDED FOR DEFERRED PAY FUND WILL BE GENERATED.  
HAUGHT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAGES, MINING INDUSTRY, LABOR STRIKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MASERU00102  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750035-0416  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MASERU A-3, 75 MASERU 35  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LESOTHO MINER UNREST  
**TAGS:** ELAB, LT, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006